

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-20

NEW YORK TIMES
22 OCTOBER 1980

Escaped Spy May Be in California, Authorities Believe

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 21 (AP) — Christopher John Boyce, a convicted spy who escaped from Federal prison in January, might never have left Southern California, despite reports that placed him as far away as South Africa, authorities have said.

Thomas Kupferer, the enforcement

chief of the United States Marshals Service, said yesterday that investigators from throughout the country were in Los Angeles as part of a new strike force to track down Mr. Boyce.

Mr. Boyce, 27 years old, was convicted in 1977 of selling highly classified information from the TRW Company of Redondo Beach, Calif., to Soviet agents in Mexico City. He was serving a 40-year sentence when he escaped from the Federal Correctional Institute in Lompoc.

Investigators said they planned to trace routes from the prison to the home of Mr. Boyce's parents in Ranchos Palos Verdes for clues. They have also hired a psychiatrist who, after a month of studying the file in the case, concluded that Mr. Boyce was in southern California.

'Not too Hard to Get Lost Here'

"The best information we have to date with all of the investigative data we've developed, is that the possibility of him being here is a very good possibility," said Mr. Kupferer. "I mean this is an area of what, some eight million people? It's not too hard to get lost here."

Authorities think Mr. Boyce may be hiding in the desert where he hunted with falcon as a teen-ager. They suspect, too, that he has had cosmetic surgery and has grown a beard since his escape.

Authorities said Mr. Boyce once offered another inmate, who was believed to have ties to organized crime, \$15,000 to help him escape.

Andrew Dalton Lee, who was also convicted in the espionage case, was moved

from the prison at Lompoc to a maximum-security prison in Indiana shortly after Mr. Boyce's escape but has been moved back to Lompoc within the last month, authorities said.